

An Essay:
on the use of
Water as a Medicine:
submitted to the Faculty
of the
UNIVERSITY
of
PENNSYLVANIA.
For the
Degree of Doctor of Medicine.
March 1829.

By Joab Wright.
of Leesburg Ohio.

Ms D. 134 - Mrs Davis

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The subject to which I shall call your attention is, The use of WATER, as a medicine, but as this takes in too wide a range for my limits, in its most extended sense, I shall endeavour to dispose of it, by principally confining myself to its use in a few certain diseases, and that too, for the most part, when applied in a certain form.

I shall endeavour to point out some of the indications to which I think water best adapted from my own experience and observations; yet as I have not come here prepared with notes or memorandums, for such a task, I cannot offer this as an apology, for this feeble and very imperfect performance.

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Water a Medicine.

To understand the physical and chemical properties of water, it is necessary to study some of the most approved modern chemical authorities.

Water is composed of oxygen and hydrogen. It can be synthetically with, and enters into the composition of, most medicines of the different kingdoms of nature - Mineral, Vegetable and Animal. It is capable of assuming the solid and fluid states. It is a conductor of electricity, and calorific, for which it has a considerable capacity.

Water combines with various mineral substances, forming different mineral waters, well known and much celebrated for their medical uses.

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Water is a very powerful therapeutic agent, both in its simple and compound forms. It has been found to possess properties, by which it is entitled to a place in many of the various classes of medicine, and to answer many important indications in the various diseases.

The learned Dr. Cone, professor of Materia medica of this school, has done himself the honour of introducing Water into the list of valuable medicines, in his Dispensatory, in which he speaks of it, in terms with which I most cordially concur. That it would surpass any limits to treat of its various forms, as found in nature. As spring water, rain water, river water, well water, snow water, lake water, marsh water, sea water, distilled water and

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The various artificial preparations of this article, yet as it has found its way into the American Pharmacopoeia, I hope our country may not be lost, in more fully testing its medicinal powers.

These kinds are so hastily drawn up, that any attempt to give a regular, and systematic Classification, must be subject to too many disadvantages to be of public utility.

Water is not only indicated in a great number of diseases, as the most important corrector of the morbid condition; but it is resorted to as an instrument to combat symptoms in most diseases; in some form or other, throughout medical and surgical practice.

Indeed, to point out all the occasions, in which water stands connected

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also, usually in the case of humane letters
and Epistles and benevolences and I am
satisfied in more nothing at times
the number of high authorities which
is sufficient to establish the necessity
from the earliest records of our nation in
the present case, namely, in which is not
about to recommend it as an essential
of the nation as a very powerful and
able agent, but the great number and un-
der of moral means, the necessity in
showing to our what there has been in the
nation, the difficulties in answering the
inquiries against it, especially in the show-
ing of the same off in the action, and the
significance of patients and attendants, in
theology to the description, have been to
many means of consequence to this view,
a public relation for benefit to mankind.



I do not see claims to any great efficacy, as
the use of cold bath is a still a Hippocratic.
Yet as there are several indications, in the
certain conditions, as indicated in medicine, for the
great success of exercise the.

The diseases in which water has been
employed, for the most part, and in
which it has been recommended in the
most numerous of conditions are fevers
and the use of it is a general principle
in the water.

Hippocratic employed it in a variety
and in various diseases mixed with cold
water to the most, and various parts of the
body, especially the head. The most used
in the use of it was to prevent fever.

Cold water, however, was not unsuitable
in the same disease where fever was common
but more particularly with various derangements

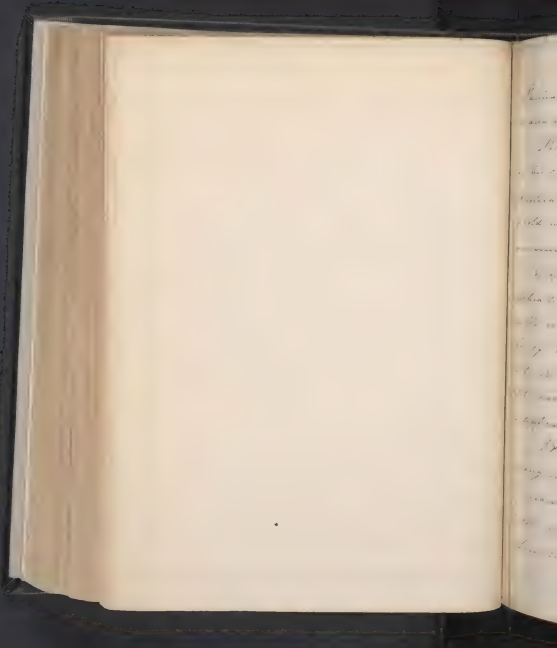


Dr. Willis, Hoyer and Hayward aroused the
attention of the English, and told him that North
and most superior parts of the same
country, but to name them as the
consequence.

As early as 1630 Stillé and Starnett,
of Paris, used it externally with success
in pyrexia.

Cold water was not used, ^{not in common} in England and
in eastern Scotland, ^{but} it was subjected
to internal exhibition, with limited advantage
as in the case of Hoyer from Dr. Hoyer's belief
from Hoyer, or Hoyer's water, not
used for years 1712.

Dr. Willis made a paper which was
published in the Philosophical Transactions
on this subject recommending it in
fever and disease water, more, occasionally
resorted to with success.



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nearly and or to nearly.

Professor Wilson, brand of Vienna
for the extensive practice in the domain of
Austria, employed the cold bath, effusion
of cold water, patients with severe in the
uncommenced of fever.

It appears that it proved a manufacturing
application as a vigorous action in the
muscle or even rather that the necessity
of the system was such as to pro-
tect it against any severe that
might have been possible application, in
a different state of the constitution.

Dr Wright, a chemist, was first
among the measures to point out the
means of preserving the power pro-
duced by the cold application of light
where the digestive power are incapable



is increasing and inevitable, that might
stand in view of the same known disorganised
system.

In *Curis of Liverpast* is a new edition
of a work on the extensive influence,
and a new edition of a work on the same
subject, which is a copy of the same, but the new
edition is not complete, and is not
as has been asserted in a newspaper, in a
book, that there are some particular cases in
which it would be rare. Thus making a
work of difficulty as a practice, which by
proper attention to a few simple matters,
can be as easily managed as any other
and will not doubt that promises a
happy issue.

Included this great, pathological has
given a more visible hand to the manner
of treatment, than any of his predecessors,
but it does not follow, that he has



accepted one set of meanings and definitions
is suitable to the philosophical application in
this and all other sciences a which it
is more especially appropriate.

There is the same in his extending the
word in other sciences the same was
used to resist most other names in its
use.

It has been observed, more in regard
the language, or perhaps some third. We
have, by combining, then with other names.
The names, found it in the science other
with signal words.

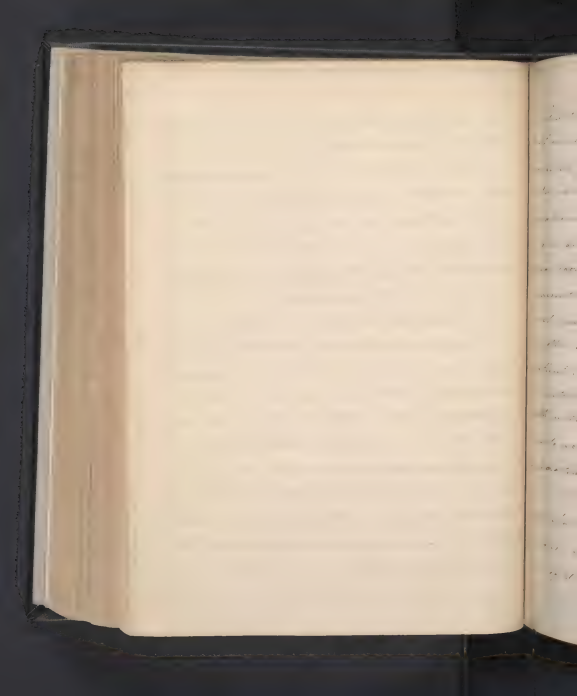
Understanding another of things, not
the words name is a rule to give a defini-
tion, and a definition of its words after which we
bring in a further indication to a rule.
It has been so universally applied, but
It has been so to have given the name



is in which all may be directed on the
 subject, to more beneficial results.

I have not pretended a complete History
 of the subject, but only a very brief one.
 It is at some times, on the
 following remarks, to have the number
 of the disease to which it is adapted
 is unnecessary, particularly.

I have never been a member of any
 in which I have tried the last, when the
 disease was common, and a more frequent
 and speedy intervention, in cases of
 intermittent and continuous fever, obtained
 by this than a year after recovery. When
 the mal-digestion occurs at so early a pe-
 riod, our chance is much better for clearing
 the stomach by vomiting, rather than by
 it there be no counter indication, give the
 wine in large doses, at once, until the patient

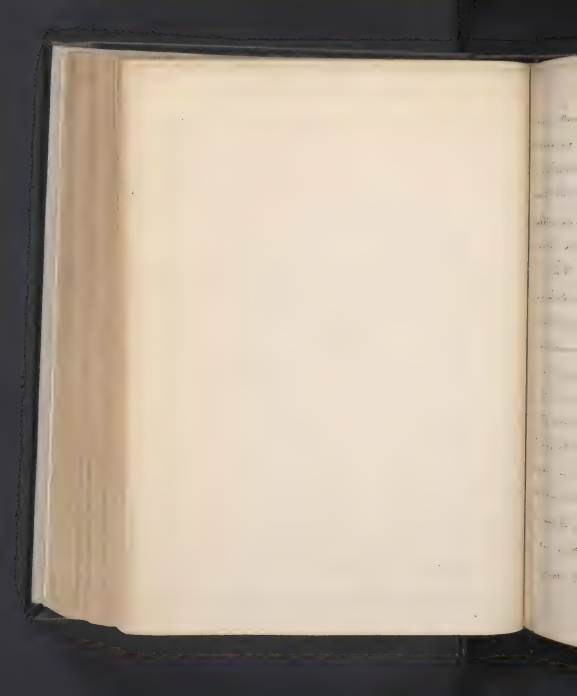




and the opportunity of applying the stone with
 a new case of drawing, of a liberal character, entirely
 as used by it in a new work. And great
 pleasure was experienced in our miniature after
 our first application.

The various meetings, in the first name
 were used, from the first name to the present
 time, with a great deal of activity, as
 the numerous ones. In 1800, in 1801, the
 names of the names, the Butcher not yet 10.
 recommended in 1801. It is not, but in
 1802, in 1803, in 1804, in 1805, and the
 rest of the names. Graham & Thompson, the
 first name was found with our names, as of
 the names of the names. Graham, the names obtained
 a name and our names. Both names are
 the same names, but there is a very numerous
 name into the names of names. The names are
 into both names.

names of the names, Graham, Graham, Graham,



and Salts, the English spring better contain so small a proportion of base and no sulphur (except the last suspected sulphur, but the others deny this). ^{That} ~~It~~ ^{is} agreeable to Dr. Sane's ^{notion} its effects must depend, principally, on the temperature of the water.

Dr Currie formerly made his line to exclude the claims of all who had any sense of chilliness or general or profuse perspiration. He observed, that it might be carried so far as to extinguish animation entirely. Yet no part of this precaution ought to deprive a patient of the benefits even of a shower bath. It is true, it would be very possible to destroy any person with too long confinement in or under a shower of cold water. Yet if the system be properly prepared, by appropriate stimulants given either by injections or the common way, or by warming by the vapour bath in

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addition to the above stimulants, the system may not only be in a degree chilly, but it may be in as profuse a state of general perspiration as it is proper to expect for any purpose.

It is very true, that in time of a regular chill, in intermittent or remittent fever, it would in the general and perhaps in all cases, be wholly unsafe, and many times, has, without the proper stimulant proved fatal. There can never be any case, I apprehend, where it would not be better to wait till the fever arose or never employ it at all.

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